

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 12783 131634Z

50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 055864

R 131615Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4382

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING ON UGANDA: DOMESTIC
POLITICAL SITUATION

THE FONOFF HAS PROVIDED US WITH A JULY REPORT FROM
ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION IN UGANDA. ITS TEXT
FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT

FOLLOWING A REVIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY
ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RATHER LARGE NUMBERS OF
UGANDANS DURING THE YEARS SINCE AMIN TOOK OVER POWER
(E.G. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS AND
PRESS CONFERENCES HELD BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER
KIBEDI IN PARIS AND LONDON), AMIN, CORRECTLY RECOGNIZING
THAT THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF HIS COUNTRY IS BADLY IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 12783 131634Z

NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, ESTABLISHED AN INVESTIGATIVE

COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE BACKGROUND OF THE DIS-
APPEARANCES AND OF THE MURDERS THAT HAVE BEEN COMMITTED.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT JUSTICE MOHAMED SAIED, AN
ASIAN WITH BRITISH CITIZENSHIP, WAS NAMED AS CHAIRMAN.
SAIED HAS COME INTO PROMINENCE AS A RESULT OF THE
RECENTLY CONCLUDED INVESTIGATIONS OF LAND DISPUTES OF
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN UGANDA. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE COMMISSION ARE TWO HIGH-RANKING POLICE OFFICERS AND
CAPTAIN HARUNA, WHO REPRESENTS THE ARMY AND PRESUMABLY
ACTS AS AMIN'S CONFIDANT ON THE COMMITTEE.

THE COMMITTEE INITIALLY ADJOURNED, NOT DEFINITELY
AS REPORTED IN THE BRITISH PRESS BUT RATHER FOR A
PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS IN ORDER TO COLLECT EVIDENCE. THEIR
REPORT IS DUE, AT THE LATEST, AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER
OF THIS YEAR. THE AUTHORITIES AND THE UGANDAN PUBLIC
HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, AND THE
NAMES OF THE INFORMANTS, IF THEY SO DESIRE, WILL BE KEPT
SECRET.

THE COMMISSION'S TASK, WHICH IS NOT ONLY TO CLEAR
UP PAST EXCESSES BUT ALSO TO MAKE EXPRESS PROPOSALS AS
TO HOW THIS CAN BE PREVENTED IN THE FUTURE, IS
NATURALLY AN EXTREMELY DELICATE ONE. IT CAN BE
ASSUMED THAT CERTAIN HAPPENINGS WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM
CONSIDERATION--FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT
WAS INVOLVED. AN INDICATION OF THIS IS GIVEN BY THE
PROVISION THAT QUESTIONS OF STATE SECURITY ARE TO BE
EXCLUDED. IN ADDITION, THE "NATURAL ACCOMPANYING
CIRCUMSTANCES" OF THE ASSUMPTION OF POWER AND OF THE
REPULSION OF THE ATTEMPTED INVASION IN SEPTEMBER 1972
ARE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

DESPITE THESE LIMITATIONS, THIS APPEARS TO BE
NOT SIMPLY A PROPAGANDA MANEUVER BUT RATHER A GENUINE
ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE INTERNAL SECURITY--AN ATTEMPT WHOSE
PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS CANNOT YET BE ESTIMATED, HOWEVER.
HOW URGENT IT IS TO HAVE SOMETHING DONE HAS ONCE AGAIN
BEEN MADE CLEAR BY THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE OF KUNGU
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 12783 131634Z

KARUMBA, A FORMER ALLY OF KENYATTA'S WHO WAS ON A
BUSINESS TRIP IN UGANDA. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT AMIN
(WHO IS IN ANY CASE PROBABLY PRETTY WELL AWARE OF THE
BACKGROUND AS A RESULT OF HIS NETWORK OF INFORMANTS)
WANTS A POINT OF LEVERAGE TO LIMIT THE POWER OF CERTAIN
PERSONS, E.G. IN THE SPECIAL BRANCH (SECRET SERVICE),
IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY UNIT, OR IN THE MILITARY POLICE,
SINCE HE IS NO LONGER AS DEPENDENT ON THEM AS HE ONCE

WAS. END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, COMMITTEES, INVESTIGATIONS, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN12783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740222-0096
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740853/aaaabtj.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING ON UGANDA: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, UG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005